



Spiny Dogfish Industry Advisory Committee Report

**Report to ASMFC
May 12, 2014**

Background

- Regional Administrator may pick any trip limit that has not been rejected by both councils
- MAFMC and NEFMC recommended different trip limits to NOAA Fisheries (4,000 lbs and no trip limit)
 - No trip limit has been rejected so any trip limit could have been chosen

Proposed Rule

- Published in the Federal Register today
- Proposes eliminating the trip limit
 - Public comment period open until June 12

Public Meeting

- April 8, 2014; a public meeting was held to gather industry input on likely operational and price impacts of trip limit options
- 37 participants, 17 contributors

General Themes

- 15 of 17 comments were opposed to eliminating trip limits (2 in support)
- Majority supported maintaining the trip limit or a modest increase
- A few comments supporting state and vessel-specific flexibility in trip limits

Opposition to No Trip Limits

- Current market conditions for dogfish are 32% below 2008-2012 average (\$0.15/lb vs. \$0.22/lb)
- Industry members felt that unlimited possession would overwhelm the market and drive price down further
- Common theme was the need for further development of the market (domestically)

Support for Eliminating Trip Limits

- One participant expressed concern with the large amount of discards due to trip limits
- Another participant felt that ASMFC could better respond to changing market if federal trip limits were eliminated

Questions?



Spiny Dogfish Technical Committee Report

Presented to Spiny Dogfish Board
May 12, 2014





Technical Committee Call

- TC previously did not feel there was any scientific justification for trip limits and they are a management decision
- TC held a call to revisit the topic on April 17, 2014





Technical Committee Call

- 9 TC members participated
- TC maintains there is no scientific justification for a large or small trip limit
- Noted that 4,000 lb trip limit allows accurate monitoring, so recommends maintaining status quo or a modest increase to ensure this continues





Questions?





Spiny Dogfish Federal and State Management

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Objectives of FMP

- **Strives for complementary management of spiny dogfish in federal and states waters**
- **Coastal sharks FMP was modified to address changes in Shark Conservation Act (Addendum II)**
 - **Proposed Rule still under development by NOAA Fisheries**





Shark Conservation Act of 2010

- **Prohibits removal of any fin of the shark (including tail) at sea**
- **Prohibits possession of any fin of shark unless it is naturally attached**
- **Prohibits landing of any fin not attached to the shark carcass**
- **Applies to all sharks, including spiny dogfish, except smooth dogfish**





Spiny Dogfish ISFMP

- **Allows processing-at-sea of spiny dogfish with maximum fin-to-carcass ratio of 5-to-95 (original FMP)**
- **Very little processing-at-sea occurs**
- **ME, NJ, DE, VA, SC, GA and FL have prohibited spiny dogfish processing-at-sea**





Possible Actions

- **No action**
- **Initiate Addendum to maintain consistency between Spiny Dogfish FMP and Federal FMP**
- **Other?**





Spiny Dogfish Proposed Rule for Amendment 3 (GARFO)

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Proposed Changes

- **Implement research set-aside (up to 3%)**
- **Allow rollover of management measures from one year to the next**
- **Remove seasonal allocation of commercial quota**





Seasonal Allocation

- In the past, seasonal allocation in federal waters and state-shares in state waters have resulted in occasional misaligned in-season fishery closures (state waters closed or federal waters closed, but not both)
- Industry has been confused by where to fish
- **Removing the season allocation fixes this issue (what is proposed)**





Possible Actions

- No action
- Submit public comment letter (comment period closes May 27)
- Other?

